

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/757,446

Examiner

Christopher R. Magee

Applicant(s)

ZHENG ET AL.

Art Unit

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/7/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-13 and 20 (renumbered 1-13).
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed 9/7/2004 was applied to the following effect: All relevant objections and rejections are withdrawn as being satisfied. Claims 2 and 14-19 are cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 3-13 and 20 are allowed (renumbered as 1-13 respectively).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for a DISC HEAD SLIDER HAVING VERTICALLY CONTOURED FEATURES AND METHOD OF FABRICATING VERTICALLY CONTOURED FEATURES ON A SLIDER.

- **Claim 1** specifies a method of contouring a surface of a slider which requires:

"wherein the mask pattern comprises a masked portion having a first optical density, an unmasked portion having a second optical density that is lower than the first optical density and an intermediate portion positioned between the masked and unmasked portions and having a third optical density that is between the first and second optical densities"

Brand et al. (hereinafter Brand) (US 5,853,959) does not teach or suggest the wherein the mask pattern comprises a masked portion having a first optical density, an unmasked portion having a second optical density that is lower than the first optical density and an intermediate portion positioned between the masked and unmasked portions and having a third optical density that is between the first and second optical densities as claimed by the present invention.

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claim 1, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record of Brand '959.

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- **Claim 20** specifies a slider fabrication apparatus which requires:

“wherein the lithographic mask means comprises a mask pattern comprises a masked portion having a first optical density, an unmasked portion having a second optical density that is lower than the first optical density and an intermediate portion positioned between the masked and unmasked portions and having a third optical density that is between the first and second optical densities”

Brand et al. (hereinafter Brand) (US 5,853,959) does not teach or suggest the wherein the mask pattern comprises a masked portion having a first optical density, an unmasked portion having a second optical density that is lower than the first optical density and an intermediate portion positioned between the masked and unmasked portions and having a third optical density that is between the first and second optical densities as claimed by the present invention.

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claim 20, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record of Brand ‘959.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

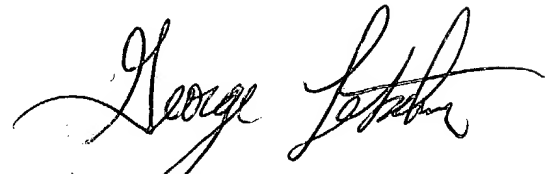
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Magee whose telephone number is (703) 605-4256. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8: 00 am-5: 30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (703) 305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 29, 2004


Christopher R. Magee
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653


GEORGE J. LETSCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER